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COMMITTEES:
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NATURAL RESOURCES
REPUBLICAN STUDY COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

February 13, 2017

The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

It has recently come to my attention that the Federal Communications Commission, under your leadership, is forming a new Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee. While you begin the process of selecting qualified Americans and telecommunications officials to serve on this committee, I would like to encourage you to strongly consider Mr. Charlie Cano for a formal role. I believe that Mr. Cano's exceptional career as the General Manager and CEO of the Etex Telephone Cooperative would make him a valuable addition to this committee.

As you know, access to broadband is increasingly critical for millions of Americans, particularly rural Americans. Broadband services are not only an essential gateway to information, but are also directly related to economic development, healthcare, and education. Without access to these broadband—and these critical services—rural America will continue to be left behind and millions of Americans, including thousands of men and women in my Congressional district, will not see the benefit of the better jobs and wages that come from such critical communication infrastructure developments. Given the absolutely critical role that Broadband services will play in places like East Texas, it is of the utmost importance that you appoint the best people to this committee, and I can think of no better person to serve than Mr. Cano.

With over fourteen years of experience at the Etex Telephone Cooperative, Mr. Cano has worked closely on a variety of telecommunications issues and developed innovative strategies to improve access to telecommunications for rural Americans in East Texas. As General Manager of the Cooperative—a position he has served in for the past four years—Mr. Cano has been directly responsible for ensuring that thousands of individuals receive high speed internet, IPTV, and transport services across multiple platforms and copper and fiber infrastructure. Prior to that, he served the Cooperative as the Senior Engineering Manager, where he was responsible for construction, data, and video functions, and was required to develop business plans for FTTH CLEC projects and for full end IPTV services. As you can see, Mr. Cano is a uniquely qualified

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Washington, DC 20515

individual and his appointment would bring a wealth of experience and expertise to the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee.

Again, as you consider the requests of many talented men and women to become a part of the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee, I sincerely hope that you will consider Mr. Cano's experience and dedicated service to rural America when making your selections. Mr. Cano has my strongest support, and I believe he is absolutely one of the best people to serve on this Committee. If you have any questions regarding Mr. Cano's application or his credentials, please do not hesitate to contact me. I appreciate your consideration, and I look forward to working with you in your new role as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission.

Sincerely,



Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

February 27, 2017

The Honorable Louie Gohmert
U.S. House of Representatives
2243 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gohmert:

Thank you for your letter supporting the appointment of Mr. Charlie Cano, General Manager and CEO of the Etex Telephone Cooperative to serve on the Commission's Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee (BDAC). We will certainly consider your recommendation and Mr. Cano's impressive resume as the Commission reviews the nominations for the BDAC.

Last September, I proposed what I called a Digital Empowerment Agenda—a blueprint of policies that would accelerate the deployment of high-speed Internet access, or broadband, in communities across the country, including rural America. The BDAC is intended to provide an effective means for stakeholders to exchange ideas and develop recommendations to the Commission on broadband deployment. Its mission will be to identify regulatory barriers to infrastructure investment and to make recommendations on reducing and/or removing them, which will in turn enhance the Commission's ability to carry out its statutory responsibility to encourage broadband deployment to all Americans.

I appreciate your taking the time to communicate your recommendations to me. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

P.S. Congressman, thanks so much for your efforts on Kari's Law. We've come a long way, and will hopefully cross the finish line soon. I still remember fondly our terrific event in Marshall with Hank Hunt, which helped us build momentum!